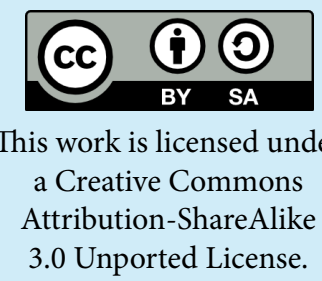


The case of OpenUCT:

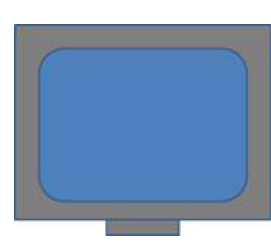
Increasing access to UCT's research and teaching outputs



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We know that the research and teaching output of universities is largely hidden. E.g.:



Locked away on a computer or in printed notes



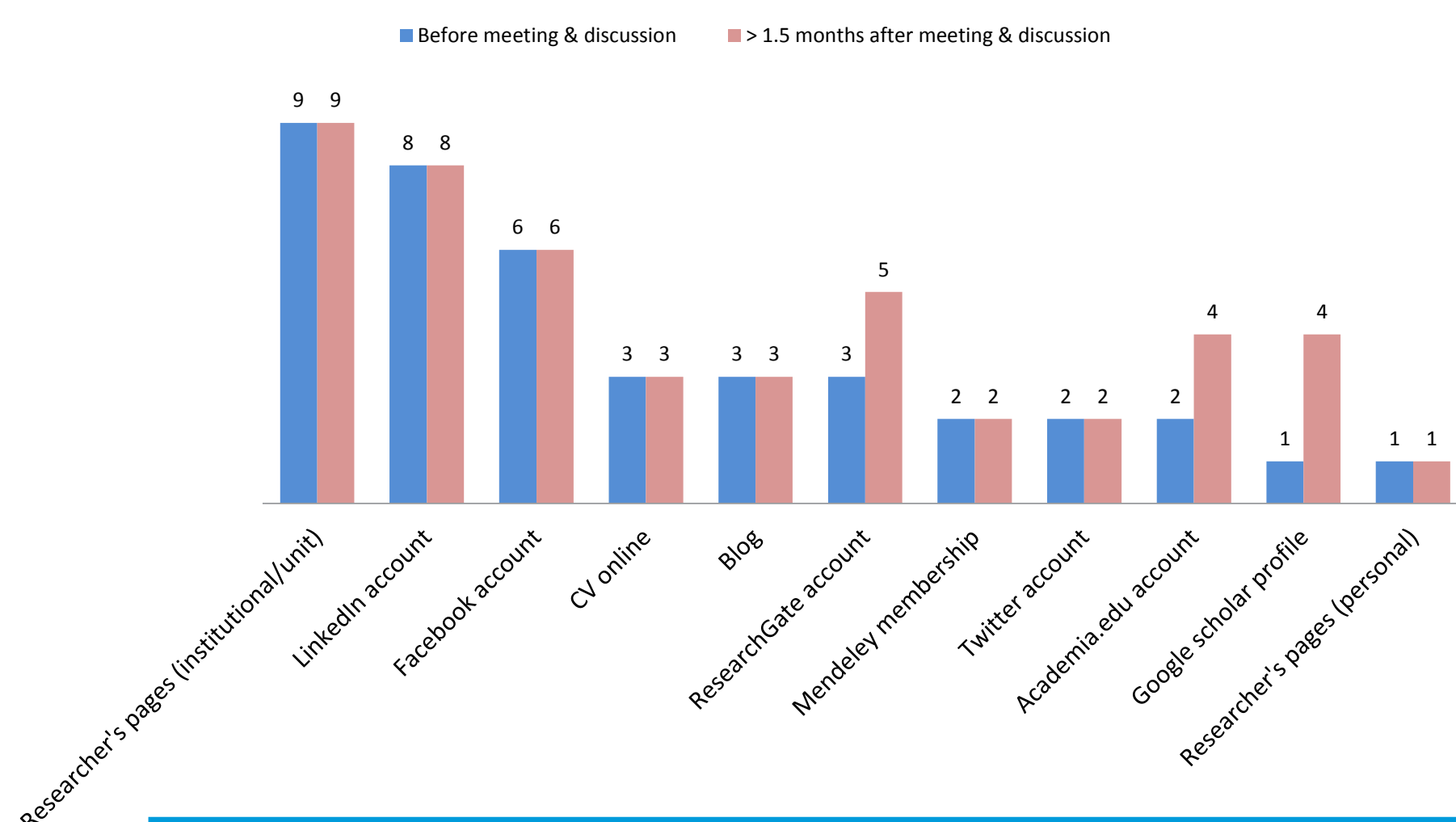
Hidden behind a paywall

What about open access?



With open access policies on the rise in the global north¹, academic outputs from the global south could become even more invisible.

We met with 9 of these 16 academics to discuss their online presence. After meeting with us, 5 explicitly set out to improve their online visibility, making changes³ with a focus on sharing outputs, including through UCT's OpenContent Repository⁴:

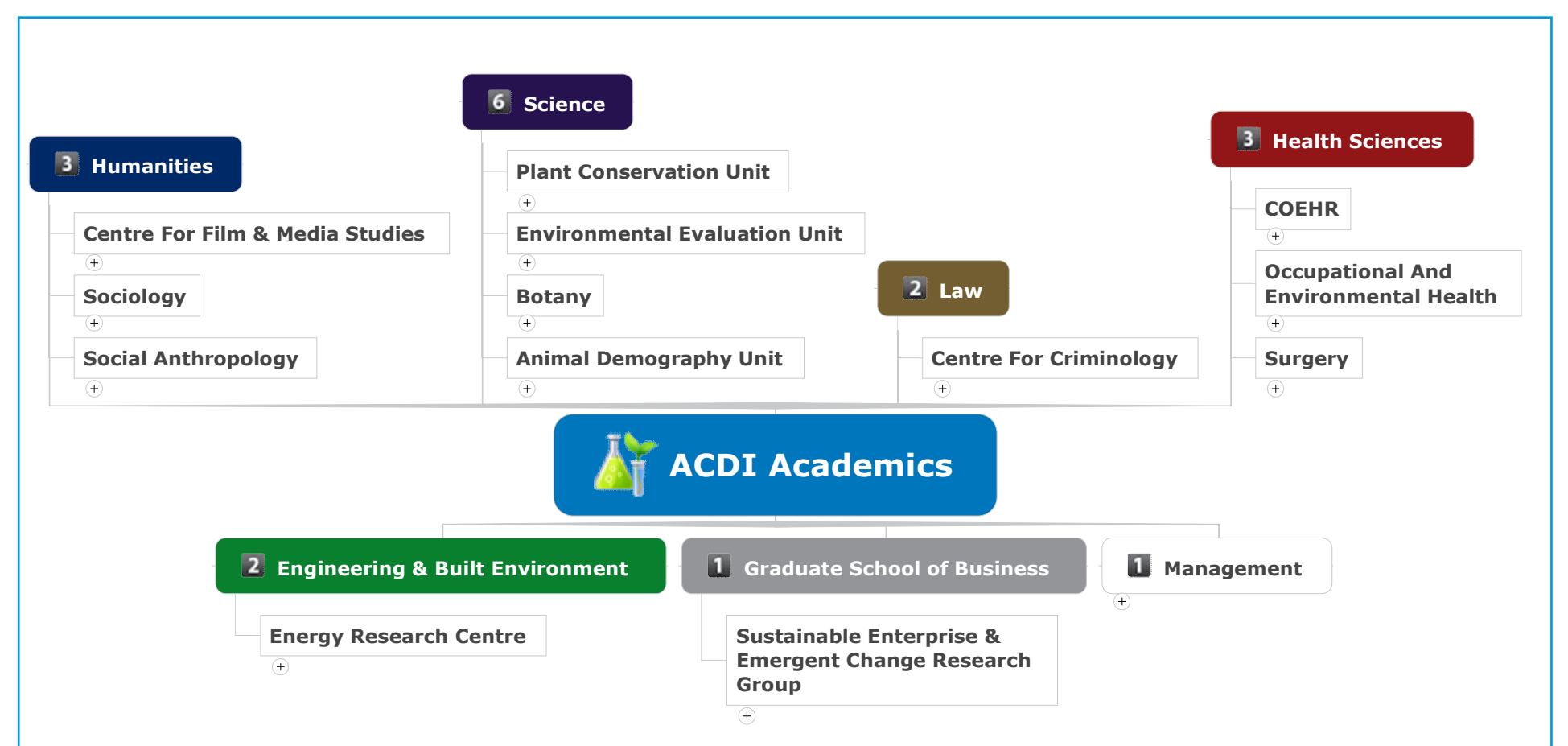


Some lessons learnt:

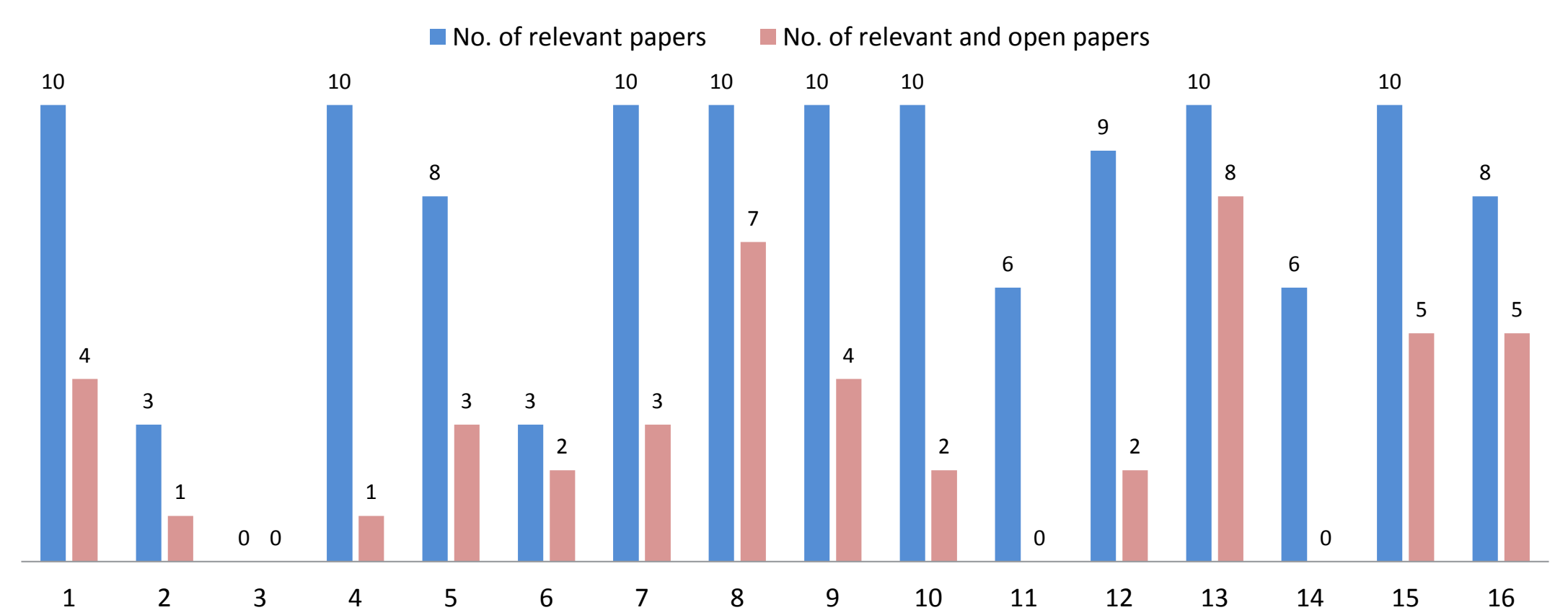
- Many academics have **no idea how much of their work is available online** (freely or otherwise) and from where
- Academics are often looking for a **quick, easy solution** to improving their online presence
- Being able to **share outputs** (journal articles, etc.) and **view metrics** (views, etc.) are factors affecting which online service academics use to share their outputs
- The **availability of help** and **time** are factors in decisions academics make about which outputs to upload and how to maintain an active online presence

The situation at UCT

We worked with 16 UCT academics from the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI) network to improve their online visibility. The participating academics came from a broad range of faculties and departments:



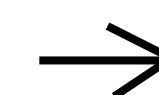
We searched for each academic (n = 16) by name in Google Scholar. Considering only the top 10 results for each academic, the number that could be accessed from a private (non-university) internet connection was established:



Average number of relevant outputs per academic: 7.69
Average relevant outputs openly available²: 2.94

The way forward

Current



Future



Research
Increasing UCT's social responsiveness

This would give UCT academics an in-house, easy-to-use, free-to-access repository for shareable research work.

FOOTNOTES:

¹ see <http://sparceurope.org/analysis-of-funder-open-access-policies-around-the-world/> for more details

² i.e. did not require a subscription to access the full text

³ As measured by their increased use of online profiles - new accounts were counted in a second assessment of the academic's online presence 1.5 months or more after meeting with them to discuss our initial findings

⁴ UCT's OpenContent site can be accessed at <http://opencontent.uct.ac.za/>